

REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 15 have each been amended to further recite that the variable lens includes a well 50 (Fig. 2) and 72 (Fig. 5) in which the liquid 42, 70 is accommodated in symmetrical relation relative to the optical path 46 (for support, see page 10, lines 3-8; and page 13, lines 10-11, of the specification), and at least one fixed focal lens 66 or 68 spaced apart from the liquids along the optical path (for support, see canceled claim 10 and Fig. 2).

By contrast, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0218231 to Massieu discloses no well, nor any fixed focal lens as part of the variable optical lens. Fig. 2 of Massieu discloses that the liquid drop 56 rests on a flat surface 66, and not in a well. Also, neither plate 50, nor plate 52 of Massieu is a focal lens.

The same is true for U.S. Patent No. 6,369,954 to Berge in which the liquid drop 11 always rests on a flat surface 15. No focal lens is disclosed as being part of the variable optical lens.

Allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-20 is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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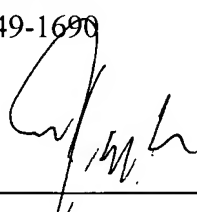
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